As illustrated, comparisons for all eleven candidate content cluster **408-412** for each degradation used. In one embodiment comparisons are based on scalar values determined for portions of a video as discussed above with respect to FIG. 1.

To confirm the efficacy of comparing extracted feature data from reference content with extracted feature data from degraded versions of the reference content, the fourth chart cluster **414** represents comparing reference content against different content not derived from the reference content. As illustrated, the fourth cluster matches have high comparison scores, which is a very low match confidence, and suggests a mismatch between the compared content. Such high scores may result when the content has been severely degraded, such as from extreme compression, or when the content is compared against different content. Based on the chart results, one may decide to set a threshold **416**, such as at 0.3 or other desired level, to represent a content quality so poor, that even if candidate content was actually derived from reference content, as opposed to coincidentally somewhat correlating, a sharing transaction may nonetheless be authorized to take place.

FIG. 5 and the following discussion are intended to provide a brief, general description of a suitable computing environment in which certain aspects of the illustrated invention may be implemented. An exemplary system includes a machine or system **500** having system bus **502**. Typically, attached to the bus are processors **504**, a memory **506** (e.g., RAM, ROM), storage devices **508**, a video interface **510**, and input/output interface ports **512**.

The system may also include embedded controllers, such as Generic or Programmable Logic Devices or Arrays, Application Specific Integrated Circuits, single-chip computers, smart cards, or the like, and the system is expected to operate in a networked environment using physical and/or logical connections to one or more remote machines or systems **514**, **516**, through a network interface **518**, modem **520**, or other data pathway. Systems may be interconnected by way of a wired or wireless network **522**, such as the an intranet, the Internet, local area networks, wide area networks, cellular, cable, laser, satellite, microwave, "BlueTooth" type networks, optical, infrared, or other short range or long range wired or wireless carrier.

The invention may be described by reference to or in conjunction with program modules, including functions, procedures, data structures, application programs, etc. for performing tasks, or defining abstract data types or low-level hardware contexts. Program modules may be stored in memory **506** and/or storage devices **508** and associated storage media, e.g., hard-drives, floppy-disks, optical storage, magnetic cassettes, tapes, flash memory cards, memory sticks, digital video disks, biological storage. Program modules may be delivered over transmission environments, including network **522**, in the form of packets, serial data, parallel data, propagated signals, etc. Program modules may be used in a compressed or encrypted format, and may be used in a distributed environment and stored in local and/or remote memory, for access by single and multi-processor machines, portable computers, handheld devices, e.g., Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), cellular telephones, or the like.

Thus, for example, with respect to the illustrated embodiments, assuming machine **500** operates, for example, as a computer used to share content, such as

audio content, video content, etc. over a network with remote recipients, then remote machines or systems **514**, **516** may respectively be an authentication server **514** for authenticating attempted sharing of content, and an intended recipient **516** of the content to be shared. It will be appreciated that remote machines or systems **514**, **516** may be configured like machine **500**, and therefore include many or all of the elements discussed for machine. It should also be appreciated that machines or systems **500**, **514**, **516** may be embodied within a single device, or separate communicatively-coupled components.

Having described and illustrated the principles of the invention with reference to illustrated embodiments, it will be recognized that the illustrated embodiments can be modified in arrangement and detail without departing from such principles. And, though the foregoing discussion has focused on particular embodiments, other configurations are contemplated. In particular, even though expressions such as "in one embodiment," "in another embodiment," or the like are used herein, these phrases are meant to generally reference embodiment possibilities, and are not intended to limit the invention to particular embodiment configurations. As used herein, these terms may reference the same or different embodiments that are combinable into other embodiments.

Consequently, in view of the wide variety of permutations to the embodiments described herein, this detailed description is intended to be illustrative only, and should not be taken as limiting the scope of the invention. What is claimed as the invention, therefore, is all such modifications as may come within the scope and spirit of the following claims and equivalents thereto.